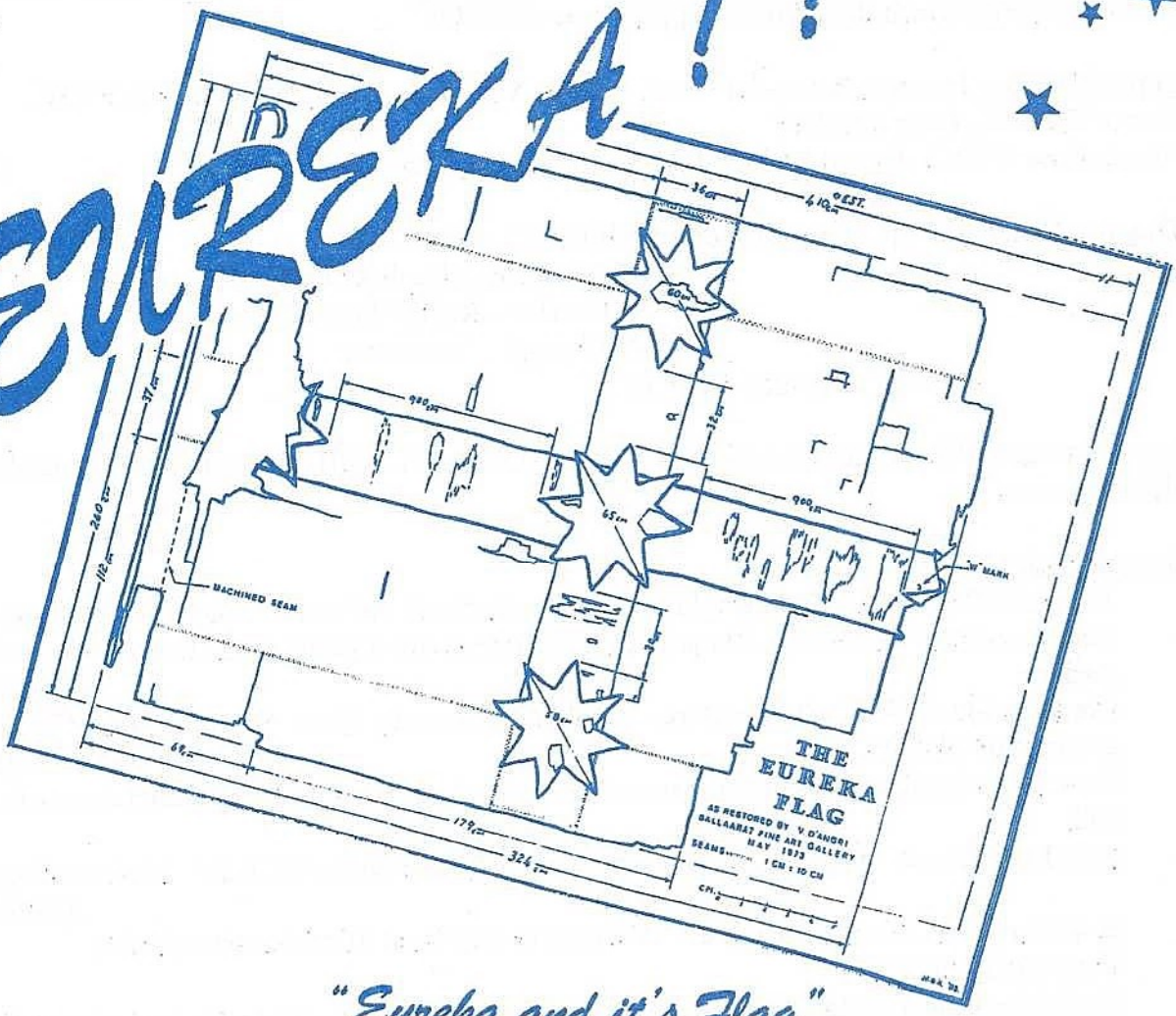
B.A.R.G. NEWS

NOVEMBER 1994 VOL 17 NO 7.

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP INC.

EUREKA!!



"Eureka and it's Flag"

Don't miss the talk by Val D'Angri.

Bring along the YL / XYL

November Meeting (It's also Pie Night !)

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING - 28th.OCTOBER 1994

President Bob VK3BNC called the meeting to order at 7.36pm and the members rose for one minute of silence as a mark of respect for our late friend and colleague Charlie Hamilton VK3VEJ.

Apologies were accepted on behalf of the following:- VK3s XEX, CFN, JEM, TDG, FRO, CFB, AEX, KQF, NIZ, SE, ANH, - Val and Wendy. CAZ/ANH

Minutes It was moved that the minutes as circulated be accepted, except for a correction of Item 7 in General Business which should read " approx cost of $1500." CCB/XDQ

Correspondence Inwards: Provincial Hotel, Lindsay VK3WOM, Bint Services, WIA FTAC, James VK3AIQ, Leon VK3KIT.
Newsletters: GARC, Illawarra ARC, WANSARC, Hervey Bay ARC. DMK/JFL

Treasurer's Report. Approved payments to: B.C.E.C. - Room Hire.
Bluebell Hotel (Ladies Night)
R.Fletcher - Rubber Stamps
N.D'Angri - Newsletter.
Today's Balance $332.38 KGL/KQQ

Net: Some great Check-Ins. Good company ! Call in from VK3KQB up on the Murray - He has dusted off his bowls at last.

General Business :

1 JOTA - 200 scouts were shown through the 'radio shack at Pax Hill. Many thanks to the operators.
2 Report on Band Allocations. No primary allocation above 432MHz.? Letter to WIA to clarify the position. KGL/XDQ
3 Confirmation of "linking" procedure - should be in place by Xmas '94. Purchase of Digital Modem at a cost of $940.00 XDQ/KQQ
4 Pre-release details of a spectacular new award - Final negotiations being undertaken with Sovereign Hill.
5. New Letter Head. - Great design - courtesy of our Editor Norm VK3LBA. Motion of appreciation DMK/JFL
6 Ongoing use of Education Centre ? Will receive mail from Administration shortly.
7 Hamvention Report
Final delegation of tasks. Great weather forecast. (Tom was seen on his knees facing East !)
Thanks to Tom and Kevin.

Meeting closed at 8.34pm. Wonder of wonders - Must be the efficient new Committee !
Next Meeting Fiday 25th.November. (Last Meeting for 1994) - PIE NIGHT
73 until next month Geoff VK3ADB.

AS THE NEXT MEETING IS LAST FOR '94 - IT'S PIE NIGHT .

The President Reports

BOB - VK3BNC

Well another 'Hamvention' has come and gone. Again we hear loud applause for what seems to us another successful day in our Amateur calendar, and indeed it was just that.
If you missed it, then you will no doubt be told what a great time was had by all.

It would be remiss of me if I did not pass on your gratitude for a job 'well done' to the principal players, namely co-ordinator **Tom VK3DMK,** caterer **Kevin VK3WM,** our ever helpful **ladies** and to all of you who gave so generously of your time (and sweat) to make it such a huge social success.

We have had some suggestions for next year and we would appreciate any input **NOW** so that we can document it in an effort to make sure that next years Hamvention will reflect any changing demands within our Amateur community.

It is perhaps unfortunate that for all of the effort that was put in that we did not achieve a better monetary return. If we are to continue to provide the level of facilities and services as a club, then this big annual effort which we rely on so heavily to maintain not only the existing services but look to the future funding of projects which will benefit us all, then we may need to rethink our present strategies.

Thanks to the guys who helped with JOTA. The seeds planted here may help to swell the Amateur ranks of tomorrow.

To all those people who are now building packet modems, if you want any help, or having finished the construction you need to test same, then just contact anyone using packet for help. Software is available free of charge for Amateur use.
With a bit of luck, and by popular demand, we should have a power supply board to Reg VK3CAZ's design available in the New Year.

As our November meeting will be our wind-up meeting for the year we are looking forward to hearing a talk on 'The Eureka Flag' by Val D'Angri. Val is not only an expert in the field of restoration of one of our National Treasures but also one of the foremost experts on the 'Eureka Flag.

On your behalf the members of BARG, and indeed the Amateur fraternity in general, we wish to express our sorrow in the passing of Charles Hamilton VK3VEJ. Charlie will be sadly missed, in particular by his fellow Amateurs from the Western District where he contributed so much to Amateur Radio.

To those on the 'Sick List' we wish a speedy recovery, namely Bud VK3AAP, Maurie VK3XEX, Danny VK3DNA, and Fred VK3KQF.

A trip to the Ansett 'Flight Simulator Facility' is being planned for early in the New Year. Numbers will be restricted so it may be necessary to run more than one trip.

As a timely warning would **ALL of our WICEN operators** please check their state of preparedness as we approach our bush fire season. It is to be hoped that our services will not be called upon this season.

73 de Bob VK3BNC.

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Medical Dictionary :- COMA - A punctuation mark. **NODE** - Was aware of. **VARICOSE**- Nearby

NITRATES - Cheaper than day rates. **LABOUR PAIN** - Getting hurt at work.

Jamboree Of The Air

A REPORT FROM OUR "CHIEF CUB"
JOHN VK3CFH

37th.Jamboree-sur-les-ondes ~ 15-16 Octobre 1994

"The Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) is the biggest Scouting event in the world. Last year, according to reports, 517,000 Scouts and Guides participated in 104 countries. The Janboree-on-the-Air is an essential way for young people around the world to learn about each other and know that they are part of a truly international Movement. The design on the face of this card is based on a drawing by Venture Scout Bora Elkaya from Turkey." (From QSL Card.)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Ballarat Amateur Radio Club set up the station VK3BML at Pax Hill on the Saturday morning for the JOTA weekend.
Richard VK3JFL, and Doug VK3VBA were adept at throwing the lump of iron, with the dipoles attached, over the many surrounding trees, and we had 80 metres, 40 metres and 20 metres leading into the Rover's shack when Cliff VK3CCB set up the Club's Kenwood. This was mainly tuned to 20 metres while I tuned my 10 watt rig to 40 metres for most of the weekend.
George VK3DOK was soon on the job for the full day of Saturday, and expertly assisted us with his experience and patience with the younger groups that came through, so that we could demonstrate our Amateur Radio to them and allow them to talk to other Scouts around Australia.

Ernie VK3DET put in a couple of appearances offering help, and was available on both days. When the groups had officially finished on Saturday, Doug and Richard had a long evening, being hosts to the Scouts who wanted to come and try again to speak on Amateur Radio, as a social event, and as an extra before they got to bed on a quite balmy night. The other group started coming through from 9.30am on the Sunday morning, and we packed the gear away at 1.30pm., quite easily, but a little tired and weary as it takes it out of people to drag a few words into the microphone and to talk about things which seem so familiar to us. We had over twenty contacts in all for the two days from Central Queensland, Sydney, Hobart, The East Coast, South Australia and Cooma. I am sure that they all went away knowing a little more about our hobby.

In retrospect, while it is an advantage to have two radios on two frequencies, it may be advisable to locate them at each end of the room and to and take turns with them to prevent "Acoustic QRM" between one station on 20 metres and the other on 40 metres operating adjacent to each other. This is something to remember for next year. Secondly the Scouts need a little briefing on microphone technique, and certainly, none of our people seemed to know the phonetic alphabet, but those afar did, and occaisionally and hilariously asked our boys and girls to spell things 'fanatically' (phonetically !). Apart from a lot of the personal things that were going over the radio waves, there were some particularly funny instances, as when one lad had to explain that his dog had to be put down because it went deaf, and another lived with his mother until she ran out of money and then he left and lived with his father! Then of course the names and numbers of some of the pets and animals that they had was incredible. So the less said about that ..... I suppose the other point is that it becomes very wearing dealing with youngsters if you are not a professional (eg. a school teacher) and my heart went out to them on a few instances when it was really very difficult to get two or three facts into a child, and perhaps the weekend ought to have set operators for the Saturday and different ones on the Sunday so that we can put all out patience and goodwill into one day. We were not short of operators, but none the less, it gave one a single day off if you had done a stint already.

I am grateful for the help I had, and for Jeff VK3PAP for dropping in the dipoles and being so well organised. Should anyone be worried about co-ordinating such an event with simple aerials they can rest assured that there will be plenty of help from BARG and I certainly would not be apprehensive in doing such a thing again. It was a busy and hard weekend but I know that BARG and the youngsters that benefitted from our service would be pleased to do it again

73 de John VK3CFH

REPORTS

(OR WHAT'S GOING ON !)

NEWSLETTER

Once more we have scraped up enough articles for another Newsletter. Thanks very much to this months contributors, and also to Geoff and Val for their continuing help with publication. Need I say however that once again the 'cupboard is bare' and any suitable articles would be gratefully received.

You would have noticed that we have managed to attract some advertisers, and I am sure that you will 'please consider' if intending to purchase products or services which they may be able to provide.

On your behalf I would also like to thank Robert Bell and Associates of **Ballarat Paging and Communications,** for the very generous offer to bear the cost of the collating and postage of the December Newsletter.

NEW AWARD

Preliminary work has been undertaken with a view to introduce a new club award in 1995. The award will probably be introduced during the 25th. Anniversary Celebrations of Sovereign Hill, who are helping with its production. Details are yet to be worked out.

QSL CARDS

There has not been any movement with cards this month. It is also proposed that the Club set up a collection of QSL cards, and a photo gallery of past & present Members.

More later - Doug VK3VBA.

MEMBERSHIP

As of the end of October the BARG membership details are as follows:

Full Call	59
Limited	8
Combined	9
Novice	21
SWL	10
Total	107

Income / Memb. Subs. $984.50

We welcome the following new members.

Des Clarke VK3CY Wedderburn
Robert Bell SWL Ballarat
Keith Penhall SWL Ballarat
Chris Kensell SWL Ballarat
Ron Mackay SWL Gordon
Keith Grady VK3NWN Creswick
Bill Dunkley VK3EWD T'lern Vl.
Darren Robinson SWL Ballarat

HAMVENTION

What a great weekend it was ! Thanks to all of the helpers who contributed to setting up the venue and making everything run smoothly on the day. A special vote of thanks to Kevin and his team of ladies who, as usual, did a sterling job of the catering. Attendance was quite good and feedback indicates that everyone was appreciative of the quality of the activities and the opportunity to catch up with old acquaintances. It is a little disappointing that we did not get quite as many "bickies in the barrel" as in other years but I am sure that, with a few 'mods', next year will be a smasher.

TomVK3DMK

Why did the chicken cross the freeway ?
To see his FLAT MATE who tried to cross at peak period. (Yuk !)

EDUCATION

Nine people are currently attending the Upgrade Classes being presented by Reg. VK3CAZ and all are looking forward to the examinations in December. We wish them luck.

Charlie VK3DCS advises that those wishing to sit for the exams **must have their application forms submitted to him on or before the 5th. December** to be eligible to sit for the exams on the **15th.December** at the **Adult Education Centre - Urquhart St.**

Tom VK3DMK.

SCRAMBLE

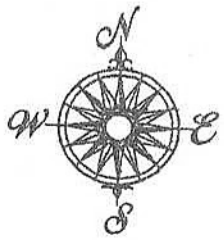
Righto Fellas! - What's goin'on? We're well into the new system of sending in monthly log sheets but I have only received 5 at this stage, and there is usually at least 9 or 10 come up on the scramble each Sunday.

Please get 'em in or you will miss out.

We could do with some more participants in the weekly scramble (held on Sunday Nights at 7.50pm between 146.425 and 146.600 MHz.for 5 minutes, with a call back on RBA.

I have Log Sheets available for new scramblers but you can 'have a go' without one. The more that fight for the frequencies the more fun had by all. Come on Norm, set your alarm clock - **now !**

Daryl VK3XDQ



CONVERSATIONAL EXCURSIONS OR "DX"

BY CLIFF
VK3CCB

PART 2.

O.K. so you've just had a contact with a ZD9 and you want to acknowledge the contact with your QSL card.

STOP!! What is a QSL card ? Where do you get them ? What good are they ?
Lets go back a few steps. You have sat for, and passed your exams, 'Beaut'.
You have this exquisite piece of equipment with all of its bells and whistles, the most handsome antenna in town, and by hell you are going to talk to far flung lands (God willing), and you want to showoff just a little, to show you can do it like the 'big guns', and you are told that QSL cards will do the trick. - STOP.
Lets go back a few steps more, and ask yourself - what do you do when a good friend has been talking to you and he says 'see you later' ? Thats right, you shake hands as a sign of friendship. Well I see the QSL card as a handshake that goes even further, it is an accumulation of a handshake, an acknowledgement, a stamp of approval, and a record of achievement.

So what type of QSL card is best suited to your needs ??? **NO !** Rather - What type of card is better to work through the WIA Bureau to effect delivery, or if you send it direct, will it fit a standard envelope etc. etc.?

This must have you nonplussed by now, well congratulations, I'm pleased to know that I'm not the only one to go through this trauma of what is best and is it right for the job.

- What is the International Standard or the Accepted/Approved type?
  It should fit a standard envelope -140cm x 90 cm. (JA cards are bigger.)
  It requires: Your station callsign.
  To: (Station contacted)
  Date: (ie.4 April 1994)
  Time: (UTC/ GMT)
  MHz. (ie.14.222)
  Mode: (ie. SSB/CW)
  RPT : (ie. 5-9 (ssb) 5-9-9 (cw))
  Pse QSL Via Bureau / Direct
  Your Address
  Etc. Etc.
- The design of your card is of little consequence, but if it is congested with a lot of unrelated information it loses impact. Some cards have comments like - 'I am happy to confirm our 2-way QSO' or 'World friendship through Amateur Radio TNX FR GD QSO' etc.
- Please remember that your callsign should be in BOLD TYPE print so that is known at a glance what country it is.
- Design is what you can conjure up, so show a little flare if you like.
- Have a look at other Amateur's cards to get ideas.

OK, so now you've picked up your new QSL cards from the printer and you can't wait to get them filled in and sent off to those far flung stations. That's fine, but please remember an important rule: **Do not change any dates, reports or callsigns** when writing out your card as the QSL card will be not be acceptable for awards etc. if it has been altered in any way. If you make a mistake when filling out the card, destroy it and fill out another.
If you choose to QSL direct you can obtain the address of the DX station or his Manager from:- the station during the QSO, The International Call Books, from DX reports, from other DX stations - clubs etc., or via WIA broadcasts.

More next month when we talk about $$$$ 73 de Cliff VK3CCB.

B.A.R.G.
PROPERTY LISTING

This is a list of BARG property held by the Property Officer, and items are available for conditional use by members of B.A.R.G. Contact Jeff VK3PAP.

ANTENNAS (BEAM)
20M 3 Element.
15M 3 Element
10M 3 Element
6M 5 Element

ANTENNAS (VERTICAL)
2M Quarter Wave Grnd.Plane with 10M Coax.
80-10M Trap Vertical by 2.
Mounting stake guys and storage box..

ANTENNAS (WIRE)
80M dipole with Coax.
40M dipole with Coax
20M dipole with Coax
160M dipole with Coax

MASTS - TELESCOPIC
2 off - 6M Masts complete with guys & pegs.

COAX CABLE - RG58
5 off 16M lengths.

MOTOR GENERATOR SETS
3 KVA 8 hp. Petrol Engine.
1.2 KVA Petrol Engine.

SUNDRIES
Aerial Tuner & SWR D/S.
Icom 22S 2M Txcvr.
Signal Generator Univ.
13.8V Regulated Power Supply.
LCD Digital Multimeter.
Signal Tracer.
Zenner Diode Tester.
CW Filter.
Cover for Generator Set.
Yaesu FT101 Txcvr.
Viking 352D
Morse Sets.
SSR-1 Receiver.
Oscilloscope D/S.
Cafe-Bar Coffee Machine.
2 off Soldering Irons.
Funnel.
Large Toolbox.
Large Suitcase
Beepers ???
BBQ Tongs.
Rig (For the throwing of.) ????
1 off Tent (complete)
Various Display Material.
Valves, tools,wire, Bits and Pieces.
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30 FT. TOWER
Fitted with DIAWA Rotator and also a TH3 Junior HF antenna. See Working. Will not separate.
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FT101E together with the matching receiver **FR101.**
Both in good condition and fitted with matching speakers and 2M & 6M modules.
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Barry VK3NBM

Ω

Werner Wulf 10M-15M Beam
$120
also **UNIDEN HR2510 TXCVR** (10M) LSB,USB,AM,FM. $300
Contact Allan VK3NAS
☎ 355600

WANTED

INFORMATION ABOUT
these 2 books

*TEST EQUIPMENT
(ARRL)
* DF HANDBOOK
(ARRL)

MISSING FROM OUR LIBRARY

Please notify Richard VK3JFL if you have them, or can help.

NO REWARD

BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP INC.

PRACTICAL NIGHTS

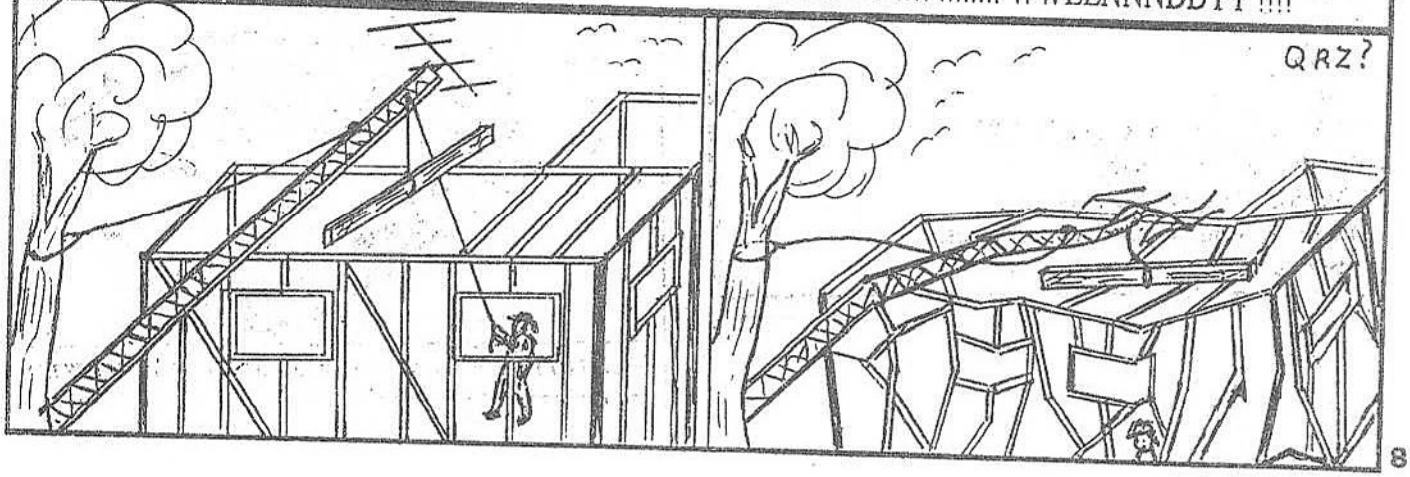
Genuine expressions of interest are being sought for attendance at a series of Practical Construction Nights being contemplated for 1995.
Consideration is being given for a series of three nights for the supervised construction of nominated small projects.
Present indications are that the activity would be held monthly on a Monday night over a 3 month period. About eight participants would be needed to make the project viable.
Please indicate your interest to Bob VK3BNC.

COMING EVENTS

November 16	BARG Committee Meeting
November 17	Upgrade Class - 3rd.Night
November 24	Upgrade Class - 4th.Night
November 25	BARG General Meeting (Last for 1994)
December 9	BARG NATTER Night - BBQ at Eureka Stockade (weather permitting) at 6.00 pm.- BYO everything.
January 27	BARG General Meeting

INFORMATION

A TOWER MAKES A USEFUL GIB ???



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1 LITRE, 2.5 LITRE, & 5 LITRE CONTAINERS

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73 de Bill VK3PH

BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP INC.

FIND A WORD

D L E H D N A H V V M F C
E Z M A T C H J T D O C O
G Y L A M A T E U R D L S
R W S R I K A D F L E T C
I S S S U R E N U T M I I
D V O L T A G E P F Q U L
M V P E P E L O P I D C L
N O I T N E V M A H Z R A
B M Q D T N U H X O F I T
J Z R E I F I L P M A C O
S H A M C A P A C I T O R
D I O D E H T E K C A P F
B A R G A X O E R E P M A

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HAM
BARG
PACKET
AMPERE
DIPOLE
OSCILLATOR
TUNER
HANDHELD
CIRCUIT
AMATEUR
GRID
ZMATCH
MODEM
VOLTAGE
AMPLIFIER
DIODE
FOXHUNT
CAPACITOR
PEP

CLUB STATION

VK3 BML

REPEATERS
VK3RBA (Voice) 146.750 MHz. - Mt.Buninyong.
VK3RBS (Voice) 146.900 MHz. - Smeaton Hill
VK 3RPC (Packet) 144.750 MHz. - Mt.Warrenheip.
VK3RBU (Voice) 438.475 MHz. - Mt.Hollowback.
VK3RMB (Beacon) 432.535 MHz. - Mt.Buninyong

ACTIVITIES
CLUB NET: Thursday nights at 8 pm. (8.30 pm during Daylight Saving). Freq: 3.610 MHz +/- QRM.
2 METRE SCRAMBLE: Sunday Nights at 7.50 pm. Freq: 146.425 to 146.600 MHz. Inc,
Call back held on VK3RBA 146.750 MHz.
Logs **monthly** to D.Quirk - P.O. Box 78 - Newstead 3462 (or Meeting) to qualify.
MEETINGS: General Meeting : Last Friday of each month (except December) at 7.30 pm.
Natter Night : 2nd Friday of each month.
Venue: Community Education Centre - Hopetoun St. Ballarat.
FOX HUNTING: As arranged during the year.

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE to: The Secretary - BARG Inc.
Box 1261
Mail Centre
Ballarat 3354

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10

BE WISE - NOT LUCKY

CHECK YOUR EQUIPMENT NOW

IS IT SUITABLE FOR IMMEDIATE USE
IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY
THIS SUMMER ???

SHOULD THE OCCASION ARISE
BE PREPARED
TO HOP IN AND HELP

B.A.R.G.

THE BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP INC.

A GROUP OF RADIO ENTHUSIASTS LICENSED TO EXPERIMENT
WITH LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL RADIO COMMUNICATIONS ON AN AMATEUR BASIS.

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME

10

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP INC.

B.A.R.G. NEWS

BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP INC.

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